

## Suicide in Alabama

**Fact #1** - Suicide is the **tenth** leading cause of death among all Americans and the **third** leading cause among young (15-24) Americans.

**Fact #2** - The suicide rate (13.3) is **much higher than the homicide rate** (7.9), both in Alabama and in the U.S. as a whole.

**Fact #3** - In Alabama, 82 youth suicides occurred in 2011, and **more than 90% were males** of all races.

**Fact #4** - **The suicide rate increases during hard economic times**. The highest suicide rates ever recorded were during the Great Depression. During our current economic crisis, rates have increased an average of 0.51 deaths per 100,000 people a year. Without the increase in the rate, the total deaths from suicide each year in the United States would have been lower by about 1,500.

**Fact #5** - The **most common** and **most lethal method** of suicide is by using **firearms**. The most recent U.S. data (2009) showed that 51% of suicides used firearms. During 2011 in Alabama 70% of suicides used guns. The use of a gun almost always guarantees a fatal outcome.

Source: Alabama Department of Public Health, <http://www.adph.org/injuryprevention/index.asp?id=1024>